GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2679
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Centres of Sports Authority of India
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard of Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centres in different States is at par with the international level, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the measures being taken by the Government to improve the standard of SAI;
(b) whether the SAI has any scheme to identify and nurture sports talents in various parts of the country;
(c) whether the SAI proposes to start such new advanced training facilities for young sportspersons and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the details of the proposal, if any to open more regional SAI centres across the country; and
(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to produce sportspersons of international standards?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)
(a) The sports infrastructure in Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres varies with the level of users. For the National Athletes who are preparing for participation in major International events, the facilities provided are of global standard and specifications. The Sports infrastructure at SAI's Regional Centres and at some of the SAI Training Centres (STCs) and Special Area Games Centres (SAGs), where National camps are held, meet international specifications. Providing similar infrastructure at all STCs and SAGs which form the foundation tier of the Sports development pyramid is not required. However, they are given suitable facilities to carry out the responsibility of talent identification and development.
(b) Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing various Sports Promotional Schemes between the age groups 8 - 25 years to promote sports in the Country namely:-
? National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
? Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
? SAI Training Centre (STC)
? Special Area Games (SAG)
? Extension Centre of STC/SAG
? Centre of Excellence (CoE)
? National Sports Academies (NSA)
Under the above mentioned Sports Promotional Schemes, talented sports persons in various age groups (Male and female) are identified and nurtured to excel at National and International level competitions.
(c) & (d): Proposals for setting up of SAI Centres are considered on merit basis as and when received. While considering proposals detailed feasibility reports are called for from the concerned region wherein availability of talent pool and infrastructure etc. are examined. Proposals for establishment of following new centres include the following.
? STC at Uday Pratap Inter College at Varanasi
? SAG at Dandeli in Athletics (for Siddi tribes)
? STC at Vidyadharnagar , Jaipur in Athletic, Basketball, Handball and Volleyball
? Opening of SAG Centre in Kargil, J&K
? Establishment of SAI SAG Centre at Solal Gaon, North Lakhimpur, Assam
? Opening of Regional Centre at Wathora, Nagpur
? Setting up of STC at Nagpur
(e) To improve the performance of Indian athletes in International events, Government is supplementing the efforts of National Sports Federations (NSFs) by providing financial assistance under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs for various activities including training of sportspersons, purchase of equipment, national camps, engagement of foreign coaches, holding of International tournaments, etc. All requisite support is provided in the form of food supplements, equipment, foreign exposure, training, etc to the medal prospects for Rio Olympics under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).
Apart from the efforts made by SAI through its ongoing schemes, Sports Academies run by eminent sports persons like PT Usha, Ashwini Nachappa, Pullela Gopichand and MC Marycom, in the discipline of Athletics, Badminton and Boxing respectively were provided with financial assistance by the Government, and SAI has signed MOUs to utilize their facilities for training of SAI trainees also.
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